

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY For
Authorization to Establish a Revenue Sharing
Mechanism for the Production of Native Gas.
(U 904 G)

Application 04-01-034
(Filed January 26, 2004)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING

Summary

Today's ruling notices a prehearing conference for September 19, 2005 to discuss whether evidentiary hearings should be held on the July 21, 2004 stipulation and the July 25, 2005 settlement agreement that were filed in this proceeding. This ruling also provides notice that interested parties shall file their opening comments and reply comments on the July 25, 2005 settlement agreement by August 24, 2005, and September 8, 2005, respectively.

Background

In the June 30, 2005 administrative law judge's ruling, parties were invited to file comments on whether there is a need for evidentiary hearings in this proceeding or on the July 21, 2004 stipulation. Several parties filed comments and reply comments in response to the ruling. In addition, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) filed a settlement agreement on July 25, 2005. The settlement agreement was entered into between SoCalGas and three other parties.

Procedural Next Steps

Based on the comments and reply comments, some conflicts exist between the settlement agreement and the stipulation. These conflicts are still being reviewed by the parties, and it is unknown at this point in time whether these conflicts can be resolved. Due to these conflicts, some of the commenting parties need additional time to examine whether these conflicts can be resolved, and reserve their right to file comments on the settlement agreement.

Some of the parties have also raised the issue of whether there is a need to litigate the interim access rules in this proceeding.

Due to the uncertainty of whether the stipulation will be revised, whether hearings should be held on the stipulation and the settlement agreement, and whether the interim access rules should be litigated, a prehearing conference will be held on Monday, September 19, 2005. The parties to the proceeding should be prepared to discuss the following issues at the prehearing conference: (1) the status of the stipulation, possible revisions, and whether an evidentiary hearing should be held on the stipulation; (2) the status of the settlement agreement, and whether an evidentiary hearing is needed; (3) whether an evidentiary hearing should be held regarding the interim access rules; (4) the establishment of a procedural schedule for resolving any hearing related activities or to issue a draft decision on the stipulation and the settlement agreement; and (5) the need for an extension decision if this proceeding cannot be resolved within the time period provided for in Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5.

SoCalGas filed its settlement agreement on July 25, 2005. In accordance with Rule 51.4 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, comments on the settlement agreement shall be filed with the Docket Office by August 24, 2005, and reply comments shall be filed by September 8, 2005.

Therefore, **IT IS RULED** that:

1. Interested parties shall have until August 24, 2005 to file opening comments, and until September 8, 2005 to file reply comments, on the July 25, 2005 settlement agreement entered into between Southern California Gas Company and three other parties.

2. A prehearing conference shall be held on Monday, September 19, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's Hearing Room, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California to discuss the issues listed in this ruling.

Dated August 9, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JOHN S. WONG

John S. Wong
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail, and by electronic mail to the parties for whom an electronic mail address has been provided, this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated August 9, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ FANNIE SID

Fannie Sid

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.